

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US99/01781**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC(6) :G06F/ 17/00

US CL :705/405

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 705/405

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
noneElectronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
APS**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A, P	US 5,801,944 A (KARA) 01 September, 1998, Column 2, lines 10-61	1-4

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
E earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*&* document member of the same patent family
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

29 MARCH 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

22 APR 1999

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
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Washington, D.C. 20231

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Authorized officer

E TODD VOELTZ

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TENT COOPERATION TREA

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NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 United States Patent and Trademark
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 Washington, D.C.20231
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in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 20 August 1999 (20.08.99)	
International application No. PCT/US99/01781	Applicant's or agent's file reference ASCOP058WO
International filing date (day/month/year) 28 January 1999 (28.01.99)	Priority date (day/month/year) 30 January 1998 (30.01.98)
Applicant SCHWARTZ, Robert, G. et al	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:
 02 August 1999 (02.08.99)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was

☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO
 34, chemin des Colombettes
 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

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Authorized officer

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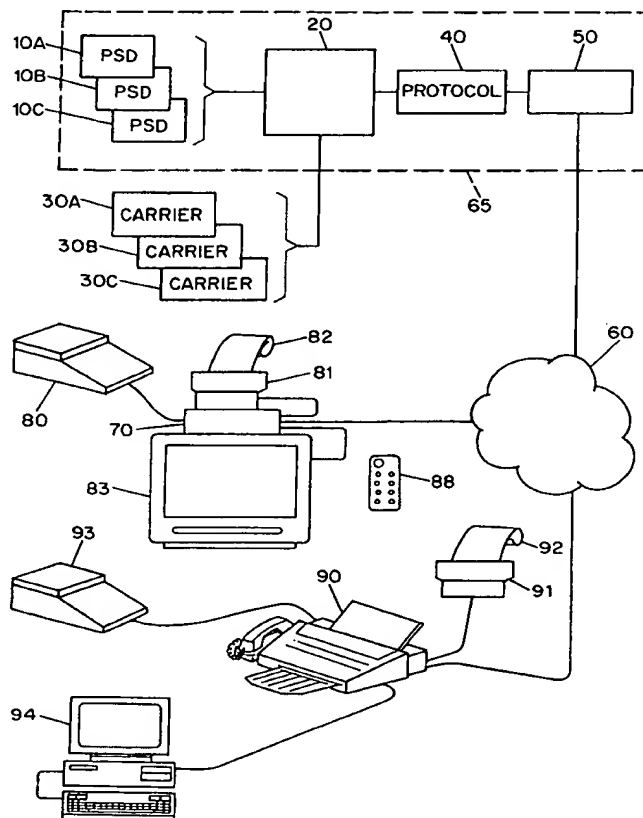


INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶: G06F 17/00	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/39278 (43) International Publication Date: 5 August 1999 (05.08.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/01781 (22) International Filing Date: 28 January 1999 (28.01.99) (30) Priority Data: 60/073,144 30 January 1998 (30.01.98) US (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ASCOM HASLER MAILING SYSTEMS, INC. [US/US]; 19 Forest Parkway, Shelton, CT 06484-6140 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): SCHWARTZ, Robert, G. [US/US]; 191 Linden Avenue, Branford, CT 06405 (US). BROOKNER, George [US/US]; 11 Surrey Drive, Norwalk, CT 06851 (US). ROSEN, Richard, H. [US/US]; 180 Merrimac Drive, Trumbull, CT 06611 (US). (74) Agents: OPPEDAHN, Carl et al.; Oppedahl & Larson, P.O. Box 5270, Frisco, CO 80443-5270 (US).		(81) Designated States: CA, JP, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR WEB TELEVISION FRANKING**(57) Abstract**

A system for printing postal indicia comprising a television set-top box (70) or web television interface connected via a communications means such as the Internet to a host system (65) containing a postal security device (10A) the indicia are printed using a label printer (81) on label stock (82).



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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 09 NOV 1999

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Applicant's or agent's file reference ASCOP058WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US99/01781	International filing date (day/month/year) 28 JANUARY 1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 30 JANUARY 1998
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(6): G06F/ 17/00 and US Cl.: 705/405		
Applicant ASCOM HASLER MAILING SYSTEMS INC.		

- This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
- This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets.
☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority. (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).
These annexes consist of a total of 0 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 02 AUGUST 1999	Date of completion of this report 25 AUGUST 1999
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231	Authorized officer <i>For E Todd Voeltz</i> E TODD VOELTZ
Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Telephone No. (703) 308-3900

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US99/01781

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of *(Substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments):*

☒ the international application as originally filed.

☒ the description, pages 1-7 , as originally filed.

pages NONE , filed with the demand.

pages NONE , filed with the letter of _____.

pages _____ , filed with the letter of _____.

☒ the claims, Nos. 1-4 , as originally filed.

Nos. NONE , as amended under Article 19.

Nos. NONE , filed with the demand.

Nos. NONE , filed with the letter of _____.

Nos. _____ , filed with the letter of _____.

☒ the drawings, sheets/fig 1-1 , as originally filed.

sheets/fig NONE , filed with the demand.

sheets/fig NONE , filed with the letter of _____.

sheets/fig _____ , filed with the letter of _____.

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☒ the description, pages none .

☒ the claims, Nos. none .

☒ the drawings, sheets/fig none .

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the ~~Supplemental Box~~ Additional observations below (Rule 70.2(c)).

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

NONE

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US99/01781

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. STATEMENT**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-4</u>	YES
	Claims <u>none</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>1-4</u>	YES
	Claims <u>none</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-4</u>	YES
	Claims <u>none</u>	NO

2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Claim 1 meets the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(4), because the prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest:
a system for printing postal indicia at more than one location, said system comprising a host and more than one customer station, the host comprising at least one postal security device, said postal security device comprising a secure housing, cryptographic means, and nonvolatile memory, the nonvolatile memory comprising an accounting register indicative of postage value;

each said customer station comprising a television, a set-top box communicatively coupled with the television, a remote control communicatively coupled with the set top box, and a printer communicatively coupled with the set top box, said printer disposed to print labels;

said system further comprising means responsive to information provided by a customer at one of said customer locations via the remote control for ordering enhanced television services at the television;

said system further comprising means responsive to information provided by the customer at the remote control at one of said customer stations for sending to the host a first message requesting a postal indicium and identifying the customer station associated therewith, means responsive to the first message for presenting to the postal security device a request for the postal indicium; means responsive to the generation by the postal security device of a second message indicative of the postal indicium for transmitting information indicative of the postal indicium to the set top box; and means responsive to said information indicative of the postal indicium for causing said printer to print said postal indicium on a label;

in combination with all the limitations of claim 1.

Claim 2 meets the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(4), because the prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest:
a method for printing postal indicia at more than one location, said method used with a system comprising a host and more than one customer station, the host comprising at least one (Continued on Supplemental Sheet.)

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US99/01781

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: Boxes I - VIII

Sheet 10

V. 2. REASONED STATEMENTS - CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS (Continued):

postal security device, said postal security device comprising a secure housing, cryptographic means, and nonvolatile memory, the nonvolatile memory comprising an accounting register indicative of postage value; each said customer station comprising a television, a set top box communicatively coupled with the television, a remote control communicatively coupled with the set top box, and a printer communicatively coupled with the set top box, said printer disposed to print labels; said host and each customer station communicatively coupled; said system further comprising accounting means within said host storing information indicative of postage value printed at each of said customer stations; said method comprising the steps of:

providing information at one of said customer locations via the remote control relating to a requested postal indicium;

transmitting information indicative of the postal indicium to the set top box;

responding to said information indicative of the postal indicium by causing said printer to print said postal indicium on a label;

in combination with all the limitations of claim 2.

Claim 3 meets the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(4), because the prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest:

a system for printing postal indicia at more than one location, said system comprising a host and more than one customer station, the host comprising at least one postal security device, said postal security device comprising a secure housing, cryptographic means, and nonvolatile memory, the nonvolatile memory comprising an accounting register indicative of postage value;

each said customer station comprising a fax machine and a printer communicatively coupled with the fax machine, said printer disposed to print labels, said fax machine communicatively coupled with the public switched telephone network;

each said fax machine further comprising means responsive to incoming fax telephone calls for receiving and printing fax messages;

said system further comprising means responsive to information provided by the customer at one of the said customer stations for sending to the host a first message requesting a postal indicium and identifying the customer station associated therewith, means responsive to the first message for presenting to the postal security device a request for the postal indicium; means responsive to the generation by the postal security device of a second message indicative of the postal indicium for transmitting information indicative of the postal indicium to the fax machine; and means responsive to said information indicative of the postal indicium for causing said printer to print said postal indicium on a label;

in combination with all the limitations of Claim 3.

Claim 4 meets the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(4), because the prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest:

a method for printing postal indicia at more than one location, said method used with a system comprising a host and more than one customer station, the host comprising at least one postal security device, said postal security device comprising a secure housing, cryptographic means, and nonvolatile memory, the nonvolatile memory comprising an accounting register indicative of postage value; each said customer station comprising a fax machine communicatively coupled with the public switched telephone network; a printer communicatively coupled with the fax machine, said printer disposed to print labels; said host and each customer station communicatively coupled; said system further comprising accounting means within the host storing information indicative of postage value printed at each of said customer stations; said method comprising the steps of:

providing information at one of said customer locations via the fax machine relating to a requested postal indicium;

presenting to the postal security device a request for the postal indicium;

transmitting information indicative of the postal indicium to the fax machine;

responding to said information indicative of the postal indicium by causing said printer to print said postal indicium by causing said printer to print said postal indicium on a label;

in combination with all the limitations of claim 4.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----

NONE